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The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 21 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Permanent Representative of the Government of Nicaragua, which, in the person of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, holds the presidency pro tempore of the Central American Integration System, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Special Declaration on Guatemala of the Special Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System, held in Managua on 20 May 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the aforementioned document circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 of the sixty-third session.

(*Signed*) Maria **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

09-34762 (E) 290509 010609

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Annex to the letter dated 21 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Special Declaration on Guatemala

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System (SICA),

Having heard with concern the statement made by the President of the Republic of Guatemala in connection with the acts of violence that have occurred recently in that brotherly country, which threaten the integrity of Guatemalans,

Concerned because the attacks against the country's democratic institutions are being repeated and because the situation that they create is being used to threaten the stability of the democratic constitutional order of Guatemala,

Noting that the Presidential Summit of SICA, held in Managua, Nicaragua, on 25 March 2009, in its Final Declaration, agreed to "fully support and stand alongside the President of Guatemala, Álvaro Colom Caballeros, in his efforts to address the campaign that organized criminal groups and other circles opposed to the democratic advancement of Guatemala are waging to undermine and slow the policy of social justice and strengthening of democratic institutions initiated by his Government",

Aware of the resolution of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), adopted at the meeting held on 13 May 2009, at which it supported the constitutional Government of Guatemala in its obligation to preserve the democratic institutional system and the effective exercise of the rule of law,

Knowing also of the support for the Government of Guatemala expressed by the Rio Group, which has stated that it was pleased with the Guatemalan Government's commitment to defend legality and to investigate the criminal acts that have occurred recently in Guatemala,

Based on the democratic values and principles that are the basis of the Central American Integration System and are expressed in the different instruments that embody it, and

Reiterating that, in the spirit of the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security, it is recognized that situations that breach the peace and affect the security of any of the Central American States, also affect all the States of the region and their inhabitants,

Decide:

1. To support the constitutional Government of Guatemala in its obligation to preserve democratic institutions and the effective exercise of the rule of law;

2. To condemn in the strongest terms the crimes and acts of violence against Guatemalan citizens, which seek to undermine the constitutional regime and the democratic order which the people of Guatemala have been building with such sacrifice since the 1996 peace agreements;

3. To welcome the commitment of the Government of Guatemala to investigate and clarify the recent events, defend lawfulness and avoid impunity while ensuring the effective exercise of constitutional guarantees and the full validity of democratic institutions;

4. To note that for the aforementioned purposes, the Government of Guatemala has requested the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) to launch an investigation that will guarantee prompt, full and independent justice; and

5. To reaffirm that under the principle of regional solidarity established in the Tegucigalpa Protocol and in the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America, threats to the democratic process in any of the countries members of the Central American Integration System are threats to the common heritage of democratic values shared by all members of the System.

Done at Managua, Nicaragua, on 20 May 2009.

(*Signed*) Alvaro **Colom Caballeros**
President of the Republic of Guatemala

(*Signed*) Elias Antonio **Saca González**
President of the Republic of El Salvador

(*Signed*) Jose Manuel **Zelaya Rosales**
President of the Republic of Honduras

(*Signed*) Clara **Quiñones de Longo**
Representative of the Government
Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Liaison to the Central American
Integration System and to the Caribbean
Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific
States of the Dominican Republic

(*Signed*) Daniel **Ortega Saavedra**
President of the Republic of Nicaragua

(*Signed*) Martin **Torrijos Espino**
President of the Republic of Panama

(*Signed*) Bruno **Stagno Ugarte**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship
of the Republic of Costa Rica

(*Signed*) Alfredo **Martinez**
Representative of the Government of
Belize